

KAHANIYA

CULTURAL & STORY MAGAZINE

Annual Sub. Inland Rs. 3. Foreign Rs. 4.

Vol. V |

APRIL, 1959

| No. 12

THE KUN LUN SLAVE

Most early Chinese tales dealt with either the supernatural phenomena or superhuman characters. The following story is about a slave who was wise as well as invincible.

PEI HSING

During the Ta Li period there was a young man called Tsui, whose father was a high official and a close friend of a minister. One day his father told him to call on the minister to ask after his health. Now Tsui was a handsome young man, rather bashful and quiet, but with a very good manner. The minister ordered his maidservants to raise the curtains and ask him in. And as Tsui bowed and delivered his father's message, the minister took a fancy to him; accordingly he made him sit down and talk.

There were three ravishingly beautiful maids there, who were peeling red peaches into golden bowls, then poured sweetened cream over the peaches and presented them. The minister ordered one maid who was dressed in red to give a bowl to Tsui; but the young man was shy in the presence of girls, and would not eat. Then the minister ordered the girl in red to feed him with a

spoon, and Tsui was forced to eat a peach while the girl smiled teasingly.

When Tsui rose to go, the minister said, "Come again when you have time. Don't stand on ceremony." He told the girl in red to see him out. Tsui looked back at her as he left the courtyard, and she raised three fingers, turned up the palm of one hand three times, then pointed to the little mirror she wore on her breast and said, "Remember!"

When Tsui had told his father what the minister had said, he went to his study lost in thought. He became silent and low-spirited, and rapt in sad thoughts would eat nothing. All he did was to chant a poem:

*I wandered by chance to a
fairy mountain, and looked in a
fairy's star-bright eyes,*

*Through a red door ajar the
moon is shining.*

*Where forlorn a snow white
beauty lies.*

None knew what was on his

mind. But there was a Kun Lun slave (Slaves brought to China from the south seas were known as Kun Lun slaves.) in his family called Melek who watched him for a time, then asked,

"What is troubling you that you look so sad all the time? Why not tell your old slave?"

"What do fellows like you understand?" retorted Tsui. Why pry into my private affairs?"

"Just tell me," urged Melek, "and I promise to get you what you want, be it far or near."

Impressed by his confident tone, Tsui told him the whole story. "That's simple," said Melek. "Why didn't you tell me earlier, instead of moping like that?"

When Tsui told him what signs the girl had made, Melek said, "That's easy to understand. When she raised three fingers, she meant that there are ten rooms in the minister's house where the maids live, and she lives in the third room. When she turned up one palm three times, she was showing fifteen fingers, for the fifteenth of the month. And the little mirror on her breast stood for the full moon on the night of the fifteenth. That is when she wants you to go to her."

Tsui was overjoyed. "Is there any way for me to satisfy my longing?" he asked.

Melek smiled and said, "Tomorrow night is the fifteenth. The minister keeps a fierce dog to guard the girls' quarters, so that no stranger can get in—the dog would certainly kill him. It is one of the famous Haichou breed, swift as lightning and

Fifth Annual

With this issue "Kahaniya Monthly" completes five years of continuous publication. The next issue dated May 1st will therefore be brought out as the annual number. It will contain not less than 80 pages and as usual priced only 25 nP. only. Please have your copy reserved in advance with your news agent to avoid disappointment.

fierce as a tiger. I am the only man in the world who can kill this hound. I shall beat it to death for you."

Tsui gave him meat and wine, and he left carrying an iron hammer. After some time he came back saying, "The dog is dead. Now there is nothing to stop us."

Just before midnight, the slave helped Tsui to put on his dark blue suit, and with the young man on his back vaulted over about a dozen walls until they came to the girls' quarters. They stopped at the third door. The carved door was not locked, and the bronze lamp inside shed a faint light. They heard the girl sigh as she sat there as if waiting for someone.

Tsui lifted the curtain and went inside. For a moment the girl was speechless; then she jumped off the couch and grasping Tsui's hand said, "I knew a clever man like you would understand the signs I made with my fingers. But by what magic art did you come here?"

Tsui told her all the planning had been done by Melek, and

that the Kun Lun slave had carried him there.

"Where is Melek?" asked the girl.

"Outside the curtain," he answered.

Then she asked Melek in, and offered him wine in a golden bowl.

"I come from the northern borderland and my family used to be rich," the girl told Tsui. "But my present master was commander of the army there and forced me to be his concubine. I am ashamed that I could not kill myself and had to live on in disgrace. Though I powder and rouge my face, my heart is always sad. We have fine food in jade utensils and incense in golden censers; we wear the softest silk and sleep under embroidered coverlets, and we have mother-of-pearl screens and jewels. Yet these things cannot make me happy, when all the time I feel I am a prisoner. Since your servant has this strange skill, why not rescue me from my jail? If I were free again, I could die content. But I would like to be your slave, and have the honour of serving you. What do you say, sir?"

Tsui changed colour and said nothing, but Melek answered, "If your mind is made up, it is quite simple."

The girl was overjoyed.

Melek asked first to be allowed to take out her baggage. After he had made three trips, he said, "I fear it will soon be dawn." Then with Tsui and the girl on his back he vaulted over about a dozen high walls, just as when they had come in. And all the time the minister's guards



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heard nothing. Finally they returned to Tsui's quarters, and hid the girl there.

The next morning, when the minister's household discovered that the girl was gone and the dog was dead, the minister was appalled. "My house is always well guarded and locked," he said, "yet now someone seems to have flown in and out leaving no trace. This must be the work of no common adventurer. Don't let word of this get out, for fear harm should come of it."

The girl remained hidden in Tsui's house for two years. Then, on one spring day when she was riding in a carriage she was recognized by one of the minister's household. When the minister learned of her where-

abouts, he was amazed and summoned Tsui to question him. In fear and trembling, Tsui dared not conceal the truth, but told the minister the whole story and how he had been carried there by his slave.

"It was very wrong of the girl," said the minister. "But since she has served you so long, it is too late to demand justice. However, I feel duty bound to get rid of your Kun Lun slave. That man is a public menace."

Then he ordered fifty guards armed to the teeth, to surround Tsui's house in order to capture the Kun Lun slave. But Melek,

a dagger in his hand, vaulted over the wall as swiftly as if he had wings, like some huge bird of prey. Though arrows rained down, they all fell short, and in a flash he made good his escape.

Tsui's family was thrown into a panic. The minister too regretted what he had done, and was afraid. Every night for a whole year he had himself guarded by servants armed with swords.

Over ten years later, one of Tsui's household saw Melek selling medicine in the market place. He looked as vigorous as ever.

EFFECTIVELY SILENCED

A very pompous lady was ushered into Abraham Lincoln's study one day. "Mr. President," she began, "I want my son to get a commission as a Colonel, at least. I demand it not as a favour, but as a right. My grandfather fought at Lexington, my father fought at New Orleans, and my husband was killed at Monterey."

"I guess, madam," Lincoln answered gently, "that your family has done enough for this country. It is time to give somebody else a chance."

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GOLDEN RULE

Make it a golden rule in your life never to bemoan your lot, or complain about it to others. For when you are moaning, you are not only being negative, you are also darkening your mind and depriving yourself of seeing the bright opportunities around you or the good points in the situation you are complaining about. To entertain any ideas of self pity and of suffering misfortune shuts out of the mind illuminating ideas of good in the same way that dust and dirt on window panes keeps out of the room the illuminating rays of the sun.

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As one who is standing by the brim of a deep well is always careful lest he should fall into it, even so should one living in the world be always on his guard against its temptation. He who has once fallen into the well of the world, so full of temptations, can hardly come out of it uninjured and stainless.

—Sri Ramakrishna Paramahansa.

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Envy shoots at others but succeeds in wounding herself!

SAMBALPUR TOWN MURDER

S. RAJAGOPALAN

Janardhan Varma was a teacher in the Zilla school and was residing in a double storeyed house in the heart of Sambalpur town (Orissa State). His family consisted of his wife Rajeswari, six daughters, the eldest of whom, Geetha, was studying in the college, the youngest being a child $1\frac{1}{2}$ years old, and an only son Prakash Chander aged four.

This first floor of the house consisted of two living rooms and a kitchen. The cash and valuables were kept in one of the inner rooms. On the ground floor, there were four rooms, the

first one being the office room and the second one leading to a small corridor in which there was a staircase leading to the first floor. There was also a storeroom and another one in the corner used as a lumber room.

One Basantha Bag (30) was living nearby with his sister Arati Kumar. He was selling biscuits and on that account became intimate with Janardhan's children for about 6 or 7 years. He was nicknamed Biscuitwalla and he was particularly liked by Prakash Chander. In recent months he

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was in straightened circumstances and giving up the biscuit trade, took to selling eggs, which also he was supplying to the teacher's family. One day, whilst he was receiving cash from Rajeswari for the eggs, he had noticed cash and gold jewellery being kept in one of the inner rooms of the first floor.

On 17—3—1958 Basantha Bag went to the house at about 12-30 p.m. He had counted on the fact that at that time there would be none excepting Rajeswari and her younger children. He was then in acute financial stress; he owed money to the mess man and his own sister had warned him that she would not maintain him any longer. He had in his own crude way planned to steal the cash and jewellery, which as he had previously noticed were kept in one of the rooms in the first floor, after murdering the inmates.

On that day, as soon as he arrived at the premises, he went upstairs and told Rajeswari who was there in one of the rooms that he had brought in a maid servant for duty in the household. Rajeswari, however, declined to entertain her. She then asked of him the eggs and the balance of money due from him for the previous purchase.

In the meantime Prakash Chander saw him and ran towards him as was his wont and asked him for eggs. A little later both of them went downstairs. Rajeswari went to the kitchen to take her meals. After about half an hour, she heard sounds of someone getting up the staircase. She came out of the kitchen and found Basantha Bag, who on

seeing her turned and began to descend. She called him to halt and followed him for a while. She noticed that his pant pockets were bulging out and asked him point blank whether he had stolen anything. Whereupon he pulled out a piece of cloth from his pocket and waved it to indicate that there was nothing in his pockets. She then asked him where Prakash was and he told her that he had gone out to play. Suspecting nothing, the lady went about attending to her routine tasks.

Sometime later, she found that the boy was not in the house and grew anxious. Her daughter Geetha had also returned from college and both of them searched for the boy. At that stage, one Jayanarayan, one of Janardhan's students, also joined them. Nothing was known. He proceeded forthwith to the police station at 3-15 p.m. and lodged a missing report. It was elicited that the boy was with Basantha Bag at 12-30 p.m. and so the party repaired to the residence of his sister Arati Kumar and accosted him there. He however disclaimed any knowledge about the boy's movements, but asked them to search for him in the house itself. They all returned to the house and their anxiety grew. It was 5 p.m. and Janardhan Prasad too had returned to the house from the school. He was appraised of the anxiety and suspense over his boy. He made a careful search of the house. He found the lumber room locked from outside and opened it. He was shocked to find the boy lying in a corner with his throat cut.

He was completely overwhelmed and taking the body in his hands roamed about in the streets like a mad man. Some of his neighbours pacified him and took him to the house. The police immediately arrived at the premises. Neither Janardhan nor Rajeswari, however, were in a fit mental condition to give any information. But the police took into account the previous information which had been passed on to them by Jayanarayan.

A post-mortem was held. The medical officer found three anti-mortem incised wounds in the neck, in consequence of which the trachea, the thyroid gland and the carotid artery were all cut. There was haemorrhage of the right lung. Violet patches were diffusely spread over the surface of the lung; the lung itself was congested. The doctor also stated that there was partial obstruction to respiration which was produced before the fatal wound on the neck was given; and such obstruction to respiration in his opinion might have been caused by throttling. The injury had been caused by a cutting weapon. Though there was complete absence of any finger marks on the throat of the boy, the doctor explained that it was possible that the assailant could have lightly caught hold of the neck for sometime before he had dealt out the cut blow. In the circumstances, therefore, finger marks on the neck might not exist.

The heinous outrage naturally enough became the talk of the town. Basantha Bag was found to have suddenly disappeared from the place.

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Two days later he was arrested in a neighbouring village at about 4-30 p.m. and was brought to the Sambalpur police station at 7-30 p.m. He was produced before the Magistrate on 21-3-58 at 12 noon, as he had expressed a desire to make a confession. The Magistrate gave him four hours' time to consider and then recorded his confession at 4-45 p.m.

Meanwhile other clues were obtained which indubitably pointed out the author of this dastardly crime, although there had been actually no eye witnesses to speak as to how and when it was done.

The post mortem examination was held at 6-30 p.m. on 18-3-58 before Basantha Bag was arrested. On 23-3-58, a knife was recovered from a nearby tank on the basis of the information given by him. He was taken to the tank by the police officer; and there he was asked to throw a piece of stone on the water and point out approximately the place where he had thrown the knife with which he had killed the boy. He accordingly threw stones three times. After his third attempt a fisherman dived into the tank and got the knife.

Bloodstains were noticed on the knife and also on his half pant, shirt, handkerchief, and underwear and a torn piece of cloth recovered earlier from him by the police, although the origin of the blood could not be determined.

Of course when Rajeswari saw him after the foul deed had been done, and the other persons who met him when he returned to his

sister's house, no bloodstains were visible on his person or on his pants to a noticeable extent but the facts probably were that all the blood had fallen on the thin torn cloth which he had concealed in his half pant pocket. Rajeswari had only a fleeting glimpse of him when she accosted him. Both the pockets of his half pant were bulging and it was probable that in addition to the piece of white cloth which he had taken out and waved at Rajeswari, he had another (torn) cloth which had on it all the blood stains and which he had later taken to his sister's house and washed.

In his confession, Basantha Bag said that he knew the teachers's family for seven or eight years and had supplied them biscuits and eggs. Once when he was paid for them, he had seen money and gold ornaments in a box in the house. He thought that by killing Rajeswari and her children outright, he could take the money and clear off his debts. It was with that in view that he had been to the house designedly at 12-30 p.m. when none else would be present.

The knife eight inches long had been kept in his pocket. He went straight to the upper floor and informed Rajeswari about the maid servant he had brought. Then he came down. Prakash also had accompanied him. He took the boy to the lumber room on the ground floor. Getting inside, he had pressed the neck of the boy for about 10 or 15 minutes. The boy could not cry. Then he cut his throat. After killing

him, the knife was wiped clean with the boy's clothing. Then he locked the room from outside and proceeded upstairs to find out Rajeswari and to kill her too, if possible. But on seeing her he took to his heels and ran away from the house. He returned to his sister's house, changed his clothing and after proceeding to the other places, repaired to the Kabarsthan tank and threw the knife. On the following morning, he ran to his maternal uncle's house and then to another village and stayed there till he was finally arrested.

This confession was retracted at the session's trial, but there was no doubt whatever that what he had confessed was really an accurate picture of the grim happening. It was corroborated to the letter. One example would suffice. He said that he had caught hold of the boy's throat and then cut off his neck. This was consistent with the medical testimony which pointed out to the congestion in the lungs; and that meant, of course, that there was throttling before death. His guilt had been established beyond all doubt, and for this inhuman wretch who had brought death and destruction into a harmless and innocent family, the sentence of

AMRUTANJAN



FOR

All aches and
Pains

hanging which the Sessions Judge passed on him was the only one possible in the circumstances; and the High Court of Orrisa found ample justification for both the conviction and the sentence.

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USUAL STORY

Two old schoolmates were discussing a mutual friend.

"I know for a fact that since he left school he's been doing a lot of writing," said one gravely.

His friend raised his eyebrows inquiringly.

"Author or journalist?" he asked

"Neither," he replied. "Answering 'wanted' advertisements."

The best of all governments is that which teaches us to govern ourselves.

—Goethe.

The Miracle of the Amalaka Fruit

How truth (satya) can accomplish even miracles is shown by the following story from Villi Bharatham, a Tamil version of Mahabharata, by Villiputtur Alvar, poet laureate of the Chola King, Varapathi Atkondan of Vakkapahai Principality of Kongu Nadu of the 17th century. The episode is not found in the original Sanskrit work of Vyasa and therefore of special interest.

D. S. RAGHAVAN

Far away in the interior of a forest the Pandavas in exile were perfecting themselves by tapas, atma-vidya and exemplary conduct amidst the asramas of saints and sages near by. Many trials had overtaken them during this hard time, testing their power of endurance to breaking-point; but they came out of all of them quite purified and wiser, if sadder. One such trial happened soon after Durvasa Muni had come and gone from their camp.

One fine morning Draupadi was strolling through a charming grove fragrant beyond compare amidst natural orchards in their pristine purity. Up there, straighter than a palm tree stood an amalaka (myrobalans) tree in all its majesty touching the clouds near the morning sun. At its high top shorn of leaves and branches hung a single ripe amalaka fruit, the size of an orange, golden in colour revealing its nectar-like sweetness. One look and her desire was aroused. Arjuna, who was accompanying her, understood. Drawing the bow, aiming an arrow and catching the fruit before it fell were but the work of a moment. But

even as the Pandava princess was fondling the sweet amalaki rarity, all the brahmacharis and rishis in the grove burst forth in great commotion in front of Arjuna and his consort. The noise at once brought all the Pandava brothers rushing to the scene in great anxiety. What was it about?

The foremost in the group, a venerable old saint, spoke up:

“Great Yudhishthira! Grievous wrong has been done. This is a sacred and divine fruit; it grows and ripens only once in seven years, exclusively for the use of the sage Mitra Muni. Once in seven years, he appears, stands under this tree on a particular day and stretches his hands; the fruit then leaves its stem and gently falls into his hands. He distributes a portion and eats the rest and for the next seven years he takes no other food. And here is the time for the advent of Sri Mitra Muni, but there will be no fruit as you have cut it down. Now, apart from the great sin of depriving a great soul of his food for seven years—for he will eat the fruit only when it falls fresh of its own accord into

his hands—prepare yourselves to receive his curse, you, who have already undergone untold pain and misery in exile.”

“What is to be done now?”

To this cry of deapair the ancient one replied: “Nothing unless you can get the fruit climb back to its stem!”

“How is this possible? It is against nature itself.”

“What is nature, my lord, before God?” Everyone turned at this interruption from Panchali in great surprise.

“Yes, nothing is impossible to the great Lord Sri Krishna, our own tutelary deity, and we shall appeal to His mercy.”

“As you say,” said Yudhisthira, “we did not commit this sin knowingly. Our hearts are pure and in their fulness let us pray unto our eternal Deliverer to deliver us out of this predicament.” All bent down in devout prayer.

Even while the Pandavas were kneeling in prayer along with the devoted Sati, the atmosphere changed, heralding the advent of divine presence. The sun shone lighter and cooler, the air was mild and aromatic and entire nature put on its most pleasing

prospect! And Lord Sri Krishna appeared in all His resplendent glory! Panchali and the Pandavas prostrated anew with a fresh glow of spirit. Slowly with their look at His feet, they explained their predicament.

With a bewitching smile that delights the whole universe, the Lord of Brindavan pointed out to them that the great Muni lived as the symbol of truth and if each of them including Draupadi laid bare their hearts and exposed his or her innermost desire and if that happened to be the truth, then the clipped fruit would climb back to its place and thus save them and the Muni.

These words of strange content made Dharmaputra draw himself up in the full majesty of spirit. “Lord! I take it this is a challenge to truth, which in itself is a challenge to reality. So be it. Here is my heart’s desire. That is, to see that giving away without motive, absolute honesty of heart and mind, great patience to endure for a cause and swadharma sur-rendering of parama dharma, these alone should win as a matter of course (as the law

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supreme) without one striving for it, and that untruth (which is maintaining swadharma even in the face of parama dharma as in the case of a man refusing to rise, and come out to worship the temple deity in procession in front of his house because he is at sandhya), anger and vice, these should never gain ascendancy even temporarily—this alone by day and by night do I wish and pray for even while adjusting every moment to the hard realities of life."

Up sprang the amalaka fruit from Sri Krishna's hands and stayed at the first notch of the giant tree. Wonder and piety overawed everyone and their hearts sprang up in praise.

In this pregnant silence, Bhima raised his mighty head. "Mercy, Lord! Let this my ambition be fulfilled. Truly does the world believe in my unsurpassable prowess and *ahankara* (pride of self) it engenders. But I fully realize that power is given to me only to enable me to feel others' wrongs as mine and right them, and in the process always to remember that others' wives are my mothers, others' wealth my poison, abuse of others as my shame; in short, every moment of my living life have I always prayed for and striven to attain as utter a humility as my prowess is unmatched. And only Govinda, the Lord of human heart, will know if I have reached it."

Up the second stage shot the fruit of Truth and the wonder grew.

Arjuna now rose and with an appealing look prayed to the idol of Gokula.

"Lord! of what use the gain,

of all the worlds if thereby one loses his own soul? That which is *atma*, that which is indestructible, that which alone is worth living and dying for, that respect for self that ennobles humanity which is *satya*, the one and only truth, the true wisdom, this alone should prevail. And this great *jnana* I should learn at Thy devoted feet as the one and only *Jnana*-acharya of the worlds here and hereafter: that is my heart's desire and this is my prayer always as You must know."

The fruit ascended the third stage and stayed there, half completing its ascension as the watchers looked on spell bound.

And now stepped forth Nakula, the fourth of the Pandava brothers.

"Oh, virtuous one! Everyone thinks that my greatness is due to my being one of the great Pandavas and to my attachment to them. But Lord Vasudeva and those I serve know that I am lowly enough to be ever seeking for one who has the spiritual wisdom—wisdom that leads to God in him and to him alone my service is my offering, not to those who have great wealth, prowess, personality and pride of birth. This greatness is not mine, but his who recognizes this secret yearning of mine and nurtures me in that knowledge, and You know who it is."

Up went the fruit on its fourth step and lay stuck up there.

The Lord of Brindavan looked on smiling.

The last, but not the least of the Pandava brothers—Saha-

deva—now rose. “My Lord!” he spoke softly, “there is a saying in the world that I am an ideal brother, son, friend, husband and so on; but you know if it is true. You also know that my attachment is only to these relatives. Truth is my mother, knowledge that leads to God is my father, dharma is my brother. charity my friend, peace my soul, mate and spiritual strength my son. I know and have my being only in and among these relatives. But why should I bare my heart when You know it already?”

Up the fifth step the fruit shot reaching the last but one lap. Sri Krishna went on smiling still!

Reading welcome in His eyes Panchali slowly raised her head still looking to the ground. “My Lord of Truth and ultimate Reality! Let me lay bare to the world my innermost thought. The world knows me as the paragon of wifely virtue with absolute fidelity to my husbands and they cite me as a living example of a true sati. I am aware that in the plenitude of my pativrata-dharma I feel there is still a want. I feel and am always conscious of the feeling that, though I have five husbands, one each year successively, I have a sense of a sixth husband. I do not know who he is but I know this must be true; if it is not, sati dharma falls to the ground and I am aware it has not failed. Therefore this must be true, that

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a sixth man has the right to have me as his wife, though it has not happened and I do not know if it ever will. This swadharma I surrender to Thee! (Reference here is to Karna, the abandoned Pandava son!)

Up the last stage the amalaka fruit jumped and rejoined its stem!

And nature once more went on smiling and the wheel of Dharma went on turning!

—Kalyana Kalpataru.

This world, after all our science and sciences, is still a miracle, wonderful, inscrutable, magical and more, to whosoever will think of it.

—Thomas Carlyle.

THE ECCENTRIC TAILOR

MRS. LALITA RAJAMONY, M.A.

When tailor Silas Grey died at the zenith of his glory, there were strong rumours that he must have hoarded a goodly amount of money within his little room at the back of his shop where he had spent all his life, for his eccentricity was well known. Folks who remembered Silas as a smart young tailor in the days when he first came to the city, recalled his thrifty habits and how by hard work he had acquired a large clientele and built up a prosperous business. Even when Silas grew older, his eyes did not lose their keenness or his fingers their nimbleness, so till the end he came to be known as the tailor king of the city.

And so dawned the day when Silas went the way of all flesh. He had no kith and kin in this world. Thus in the natural order of things the shop bearing the flamboyant title Silas Grey, Tailor, reverted to the state. The shop was a compact little building containing a few odds and ends of furniture and other accessories pertaining to the profession. Among these was also a wooden case of books on tailoring, and it was generally whispered that Silas had concealed his hoard of savings somewhere among these.

The government auctioneer settled the day on which the shop was to be disposed off by public auction. On the appointed day, quite a fair crowd turned up. Even Silas' funeral had not

attracted so much attention! The hushed interior was bathed in a dim light. The congregation, some of whom came out of sheer curiosity and some in real earnest, bid at the items as their fancy dictated. The auctioneer had kept the book case till the last. Then when everybody's interest had been piqued, the article came up for sale.

"Gentlemen," the auctioneer announced, "this case as you know was the price possession of Silas, the tailor. I am sure it would bring all Silas' luck to the purchaser."

Naturally, the interest of the people was aroused, and there was keen competition over the bidding. Novice tailors to whom Silas Grey had been a shining hero thought it would be a fine acquisition to their trade if in truth Silas' luck was associated with it.

The audience was stirred by the battle that raged over the book case. There were excited rumours of the possibility of finding the hidden hoard in it. Necks were craned, legs were shuffled. The hammer fell after a tough tussle. George, one of the junior tailors, won the book case. He took the prize home and arranged it in a prominent place. Then with a silent prayer he opened the case and began examining the books. But he did not find any treasure. Nor were the titles of any interest to him. But one fact he noticed. The books were numbered and suddenly an

idea struck him. He remembered the old tailor's eccentricity. May be they were numbered with some purpose, may be there was some method in this seeming madness.

Bringing out pen and paper, George carefully jotted down the titles of the volumes in the order, one, two, three and so on. He had written fast and had reached the last number when glancing over the list he had made, his startled eyes beheld that the first letters made a readable sentence. The statement that stood out with striking clarity sent his pulses racing. No doubt it was the clue to Silas' missing treasure! "You will find the secret of my prosperity inside the panel behind the books," read the sentence.

Proud to think that he was the lucky possessor of his hero's secret, he cleared the books impatiently and tapped the panel

behind. It was hollow. He let his fingers play over it. They must have touched some hidden spring, because the panel moved leaving a box like aperture open. Eagerly he peered in, expecting a hoard of golden sovereigns or some sparkling diamonds. He looked and looked but instead of joyful exuberance he felt like crying! For, the thing that met his startled eyes was something so ordinary that the whole episode seemed a practical joke, a caprice of the old man's imagination. It was only a piece of paper on which were the words, "Hard, honest work is the hall mark of a good tailor."

Tearing the paper with fingers quivering with disappointment he hurled the pieces dejectedly away when his baffled eyes caught the date on his table calendar. It was April the first! Silas Grey had unwittingly made him an April fool!

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AKBAR & THE FAKIR

SWAMI SIVANANDA

Badshah Akbar once held a great feast in which thousands upon thousands of rich and poor took part.

Whenever a batch of people sat down in the palace hall to take their food, they sang the praises of the Badshah and shouted at the top of their voices 'Akbar Badshah ki jai.' But it so happened that there was one fakir in a batch who did not praise the king.

Akbar who was watching the proceedings from the balcony sent for the man who did not take part in this chanting and shouting. "Tell him that he shall not be given food here. Unless he joins in the chorus of my praise, and unless he says, 'Akbar Badshah ki jai', he shall not even be allowed to enter the palace. Drag him out of the palace and neck him out of the gates."

The Badshah's orders were instantly and ruthlessly carried out.

At night Badshah Akbar tossed about restlessly in bed. He could not sleep. Some mysterious voice was uttering the words, "Akbar! Though I am the Almighty whose glories are sung by millions of wise men, I do not deny my blessings and my protection to even the lowliest of the low, the poorest of the poor and the wickedest of the wicked who abuse me, who deny my very existence! Will you refuse to feed the man who did not sing your praise? That man is a great

saint and he is my bhakta. He need not sing your praise; but if you feed him you will be blessed."

Akbar could not believe his ears; but the voice steadily grew in intensity and pitch and the entire bedroom was resounding with the words. At last Akbar was convinced that it was God's voice.

At dawn Akbar sent all his messengers in search of the poor man. When he arrived Akbar fell at his feet and asked for pardon.

The fakir smiled and said: "Badshah! You have no need to ask for pardon. God can never be offended. So also His devotees. You are blessed, for, what you did, gave you an opportunity to listen to His voice and learn a lesson from Him."

x x x

**You cannot run away
from evil**

In a certain highland, where stealing sheep was deeply resented and considered a crime, two brothers were caught in that nefarious act. To perpetuate the punishment the village elders branded on their forehead the letters S. T., which signified "Sheep Thief". Then they were let free.

Both the brothers were extremely unhappy, as the entire village came to know of the theft and whenever they were seen in public the people jeered at them. "There go the S. Ts.

Look out for the sheep thieves," and so on.

The elder brother took the ignomy seriously, and thought himself, "Let me run away from it all". He left the village and wandered through hills and dales, but, alas, nowhere could he find peace. The staring trade mark on his forehead attracted attention wherever he went and was pestered with the question, "Oh, what do they mean?" or; "Who branded those letters on your forehead?" For some time he did try to play off these inevitable enquiries. But how long could he? So he had to change from place to place and he grew day by day restless and finally died of bitterness and frustration. He was interred in a

lonely soil, away from the warmth of his home.

But the younger brother elected to stay on where he was. "There can be no running away from the fact of my crime," he thought, and bore the public insult with a stout heart. He had decided to forget the past and open a new chapter in his life. With undaunted zeal, through months and years, he gradually built up a very high reputation for honesty and integrity. To his neighbours he became a symbol of virtue and goodness. His sore was healed up by the cosmic healer, Time, and people forgot about his past in due course.

Years later some stranger came to the village and found

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Galaxies are swarms of billions of stars, as large and as luminous as our sun. They exist in a variety of forms—pin-wheel, globular, and irregular. The galaxies, of which our own Milky Way is only one, are, in turn, drawn together by the Law of Gravitation into larger aggregates, named clusters. There are countless millions of galaxies in the universe, each like a grain of sand in the vastness of space.

A monumental catalogue of 40,000 of the brightest galaxies, and of 10,000 rich clusters of

galaxies, is now being compiled by a team of astronomers at the California Institute of Technology, writes W. L. Laurence in *N. Y. Times*. Dr. Fritz Zwicky, noted astrophysicist and chief investigator on the project, says the catalogue will hold more information about the large-scale distribution of matter in the universe than ever before. He estimates that there are about 500 million galaxies and several hundred thousand clusters of galaxies within reach of the 200-inch Hale Telescope on Mount

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Palomar, California, the world's largest optical telescope.

The catalogue, Dr. Zwicky says, will provide information on the distribution and amount of cosmic dust in the Milky Way, the galaxy of which our solar system is an insignificant part. This knowledge will be "immensely important" in determining the distances of everything beyond the Milky Way "by letting us know how much stuff we have to look through." The amount of dust between us and the galaxies beyond the Milky Way affects the brightness of these galaxies, and this brightness is one of the 'yardsticks' for measuring cosmic distances."

In addition to the distribution and amount of the dust in the Milky Way, the catalogue will also supply important new data on the distribution of intergalactic dust, the vast clouds of dust between the galaxies.

The catalogue will also make it possible to determine whether there are "clusters of clusters" of galaxies, as some astronomers believe. Evidence that such superclusters exist would be proof that the Law of Gravitation is truly universal, being operative at all distances throughout the material universe.

Recently Dr. Zwicky reported that he has found no evidence that such clusters of clusters exist. His studies indicate that the law of gravitation does not operate when the distances between the galaxies are greater than 5,000,000 light years, or 30 billion billion miles.

Further proof of the breakdown of Newton's Law of Gravitation beyond a certain distance,

Dr. Zwicky said, would mean, in the first place, that the General Theory of Relativity in its present form would have to be abandoned, since it assumes the universality of Newton's law. In the second place, all conclusions about the evolution of the universe and its supposed expansion, which are derived from cosmological models based on relativity, would become untenable.

The catalogue, by far the most ambitious ever undertaken, deals with sizes and distances beyond the capacity of the human imagination. For example, the Milky Way, an average galaxy, is about 80,000 light-years in diameter, a light-year being six trillion miles. Dr. Emil R. Herzog, mathematician on the catalogue project, estimates that the total material in the Milky Way equals about 200 billion of our suns.

The largest clusters of galaxies are about 100 times the diameter of the largest galaxies. The richest cluster analyzed so far with the fortyeight-inch Schmidt camera telescope—the Coma Cluster—has been found to contain 11,000 individual galaxies.

The catalogue will consist of about 450 charts, each covering thirty-six square degrees of sky, traced from photographic plates taken through the eighteen and fortyeight-inch Schmidt telescope cameras at Palomar. Four charts will about equal the area of the sky covered by a clenched fist held at arm's length.

Only the rich clusters—those containing fifty or more galaxies in a given range of brightness—are counted. The catalogue notes the number of galaxies

sphere except for the region of the Milky Way. The study, based on ten years of observing, sky mapping and reduction of data, is endorsed by the International Astronomical Union.

is endorsed by the International Astronomical Union.

Sergeant: "Private Mills, what did you do before you came

Mills: "Accounting, sir."

dusting desks and sharpening pencils, I suppose?"

Mills: "No, sir, we kept an old sergeant for that job."

Fame is the perfume of heroic deeds.—Socrates.

Dinners cannot be long where dainties want.

The nearest way to glory is to strive to be what you wish to be
thought to be. —Socrates.

A man may fail many times, but he isn't a failure until he begins to blame someone else.

No man is match for a woman till he is married.

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COLOUR BAR IN RAILWAY

In the following is recalled Gandhiji's first experience of the colour bar in South Africa.

V. G. RAMACHANDRAN, M.A., B.L.

Abdulla Sheth received a letter from the firm's lawyer that the case was getting ready and he or someone else on his behalf should hasten to Pretoria. Abdulla asked Gandhiji to be ready to start for Pretoria. The firm's clerks explained the details of the case to young Gandhi who felt he had to begin at scratch to know the basic fundamentals of the case. It was all accounts which was Greek to the young barrister. The clerks put him through the technicalities and ramifications of debit and credit entries. Gandhiji felt stupified. He did not know what a pronote was as indicated in the accounts. The dictionary had no such word. The clerks explained it was a shortened form of "promissary note"! Gandhi read a book on book-keeping to give him some confidence and understand what the case was really about! He tried hard to get into details and Abdulla Sheth who had much practical knowledge of accounts (though uneducated) cleared some of his doubts. Gandhiji thus got himself ready to start and Abdulla wrote to his Memon friends in Pretoria. He cautioned Gandhiji that he must not get too familiar with any one there. The opposite party had great influence and Gandhiji

should be aloof. Even the correspondence would be pried into. Gandhiji assured Abdulla he would stay where the local lawyers put him up or find independent lodgings. He would do all he could for the case and even attempt at settlement out of court as after all the opposite party was a relation of Abdulla.

Abdulla, however, cautioned him that Tyeb Sheth, the opponent, was wily and if settlement was hastily proposed he would screw all sorts of things out of Abdulla.

So Gandhiji left Durban on the 7th day after his arrival in Africa. A first class seat in the railway was booked. An extra five shillings for a bedding was refused by Gandhi on the ground of economy much to his cost which he got to know soon! Barrister or no barrister Gandhiji was but a 'cooly' to the South Africans. How could a coolly travel first class? How could he offend the whites by sitting next to them? This was soon learnt by Gandhiji. The train reached Maritzburg, the capital of Natal, at 9 p. m. A white man walked into the compartment and eyed hard at Gandhi! Then a railway official walked in and said to Gandhi, "Come along, you must go to the van compartment."

Gandhi: But, I have a first class ticket.

R. Official: That does not matter. I tell you, you must go to the van compartment.

G: I tell you, I was permitted to travel in this compartment at Durban and I insist on going in it.

R: No, you won't. You must leave this compartment or else I will have to call a police constable to push you out.

G: Yes, you may. I refuse to get out voluntarily.

Gandhi was adamant even after the constable came. The latter took him by the hand, pushed him out, luggage and all. But Gandhi stood his ground and refused to go to the other compartment. The train steamed away leaving Gandhi behind. It was getting cold. He shivered, but that appeared nothing compared to the insult he had suffered at the hands of the whites. The deep disease of colour prejudice had made Africa a veritable hell. Should he go away from the wretched land back to India? Will it not be accepting defeat? Will it not be desertion of his duty to his client? Such were the conflicting thoughts surging in Gandhiji's mind. He decided to face all. He took the next train to Pretoria after sending a long telegram to the General Manager of the railway and Abdulla Sheth about the treatment he had received. He took the evening train to Charleston from where he had to go to Johannesburg only by a stage coach. He purchased the ticket but trouble came soon. He would not be accommodated inside the coach

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where the whites were seated. The leader of the coach asked him to take his seat next to the coachman. That was quite a humiliation but prudence dictated to Gandhi to pocket the insult for the time being as his client's cause required him to reach his destination early enough. At Pardekopt the leader asked Gandhi to sit below, so that he could sit on the seat with the coachman and enjoy a smoke! This was the limit! Gandhiji said, "It was you who seated me here though I should have been accommodated inside. I put up with the insult. Now that you want to sit outside and smoke, you would have me sit at your feet. I will not do so, but I am prepared to sit inside."

The ignition point was reached. The leader came down on Gandhiji and slapped him and tried to drag him down. Gandhiji clung to the brass rails of the coach. Even the passengers were moved to pity and said that they did not mind Gandhi sitting inside. But the ruffian of the leader was adamant. He, however, stopped beating and sat

CANDID COMMUNICATIONS

The Editor,
Indian Express,
Madras.

Big Brother,

I was mildly shocked the other day to read your editorial under the heading "Are we really a democracy?"

You allude in it to Nehru's "eruptive speeches" and condemn his economic thinking as "a case of arrested thinking" and add:

"Mr. Nehru talks of extending the so called co-operation principle, a cowardly alibi for collectivism, from the agricultural to the industrial plane. It is time a halt was called to such confused thinking. This is not economic realism. It is economic rubbish."

Strong language, big brother, strong language indeed! Be a little more diplomatic in the interests of freedom of the press, or else "the cohorts of trained courtiers in New Delhi" about whom you complain may start shouting and try to gag us!

Zero.

x x x

Sri Raja Sripal Singh,
Vidhan Sabha,
Lucknow.

Sir,

La, la, la! I was tempted to hum the latest popular cinema tune when I read your suggestion that the Government should propitiate the rain gods if they,

want to increase food production!

Whatever others may say, it cannot be gainsaid that yours is an original suggestion.

"Yajnas and fire sacrifices," you pleaded, "will purify the air and rains will fall when the rain god is propitiated. The micro-organisms thus formed will come down to earth and will increase the fertility of the soil."

I don't know what our Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru will say about your suggestion. Of late, you see, he is all for a scientific approach to solve our problems and quite likely he may, when he hears of your suggestion, remark, "Who is this Don Quixote?"

But don't you be discouraged. Dr. Deshmukh is sure to be disillusioned with his current fad, the Chinese method of cultivation of rice, and he may gladly adopt your suggestion to save his face with the farmers! For, even the meanest intelligence will have to admit that there is one supreme merit in your suggestion and that is that our superstitious farmers will never oppose the propitiation of the gods!

And even if the rains fail to come, Dr. Deshmukh can put the blame on gods without the fear of being contradicted!

Cheerio, friend, Cheerio!

Zero.

Sri C. N. Annadurai,
DMK,
Madras.
Anna,

Of late Periar E. V. Ramaswamy Naicker has been patting Kamaraj Nadar on his back and openly proclaiming that Madras is the best administered State in the whole country. He also exhorted the people to vote for Congress candidates in the municipal elections.

And now you have come forward with a fulsome tribute to Sri Subramaniam and want that his undoubted talents should be utilised in the Centre!

I am sure you meant what you said but the shrewd lawyer in Subramaniam suspects that you have some ulterior motive in praising him!

Ah! How I wish he had taken you at your word and offered to accept your suggestion provided you agreed to sit in his seat in the treasury benches!

Congress has thus lost a glorious opportunity to win you into their fold!

Zero.

x x x
Sri S. V. Parulekar, M. P.
New Delhi.
Comrade,

Criticising the Government for its extreme hurry in coming to an agreement with a foreign firm for the manufacture of streptomycin, you said that the deal rather was somewhat fishy and wanted an enquiry to be held

But I find that the Government has completely ignored your request. Perhaps, in its opinion, you have an extremely sensitive nose!

And I don't blame the Govern-

ment, for you see, there is likely to be something fishy in every deal at a higher or lower level. But the Government can't waste its time and energy in investigating into every deal. It all depends on the degree of fishiness! You must be aware that in your party governed State of Kerala, the Cabinet has rejected the one-man Commission report on the rice deal on similar grounds!

So don't unnecessarily inconvenience yourself. If you have a sensitive nose and can't help smelling the fishy smell, adopt the simple method which every child knows instinctively. Hold your nose with your fingers, or if you want to use proper decorum, use a handkerchief! It will be better still if you put a drop of perfume in it. I assure you it works perfectly and never will you know whether there is anything fishy or not!

Zero.

x x x
The Members,
Law Commission.
Hon. Sirs,

Your recommendations as to how the judges in India should comport themselves in their private lives are extremely reasonable and praiseworthy.

"If the public is to give profound respect to the judges, the judges should by their conduct try and deserve it," you say. "It appears to us that not only in the performance of his duties but outside the court as well, a judge has to maintain an aloofness almost amounting to self-imposed isolation."

What you say about the judges, I feel, applies to the Ministers as

well. Of course, self-imposed isolation is not desirable in the case of Ministers but everyone will agree that Ministers should maintain proper dignity if the public were to hold them in high esteem. But what do we find? Some of the Ministers seem too eager to be garlanded and feted. And in their desire for public notice they go and preside over any function to which they are invited, even if it be the opening of a private coffee hotel!

How I wish the Ministers too have some rules of conduct prescribed for them!

Zero.

X X X
Sri Lal Bahadur Shastri,
Minister for Commerce and
Industry,

Government of India,
New Delhi.
Shastriji,

My admiration for you has gone up by leaps and bounds ever since you revealed in the Lok Sabha that you had discovered about 100-7 o'clock blades stockpiled in your house!

I don't blame the person in charge of your household for going in for these blades which were included in the import ban. He evidently wanted to serve you well and his sole purpose must have been that you should have your comfortable shave every morning! For, it is no use hiding the fact that the Indian-made blades are not yet up to the mark.

This is by the way What I am curious to know is what you intend to do with these foreign blades. You have said that you have no intention to grow your beard as suggested by

XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX



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Ashok Mehta. "What will happen to the small scale industries manufacturing blades?" you asked him in shocked surprise!

I don't question the genuineness of your sympathy for Indian manufacturers. I am, however, troubled by the demon of doubt because I can't forget the fact that you had in your house a hundred blades of non-Indian manufacture. How did these happen to be purchased unless you were in the habit of using these blades?

Zero.

Sri J. B. Kripalani,
PSP.,
Bihar.
Acharyaji,

Sometime ago you put forward the plea for an all party Government. You said then that you were sure some people would question your motives. It is indeed a matter for regret that your suggestion was pooh-poohed by Jawaharlal Nehru.

I expected that you would maintain your efforts in that direction, despite the cold water poured over it by the Prime Minister. But what do I find? You are again going hammer and tongs at the Congress Government!

"From time to time," you thundered recently, "the country is shocked by various reports about mismanagement of public funds. To add to all this, periodically the country is shocked to learn of corruption at levels higher than the permanent services....."

Chup! Chup! How can you expect to form an all party

Government if you go on at this rate? Curb your impatience, Acharyaji. Try, try, try again and don't mind if others mistake you!

Zero.

x x x

Sri Morarji Desai,
Finance Minister,
Govt of India,
New Delhi.

Morarjibhai,

I am glad you have strongly protested against describing your budget as pick-pocketing budget!

It is true that the budget by its very nature means picking money from the pockets of the rich and the poor alike but it is legitimate picking because it is sanctioned by the Parliament! To describe the budget as pick-pocketing budget therefore is erroneous as it may give the light-fingered gentry some ideas!

However, there is one thing which you two share in common—the frowns of the public who are powerless against the depredations of both of you!

Zero.

EXPERIENCED!

A cavalry officer surveyed a group of new draftees.

"They have taken my orderly from me," he explained, "and I need a new one. He has got to be a man, of course, who understands horses perfectly. Would any of you men like to volunteer?"

One spindly legged, pale, underfed specimen promptly stepped forward from the ranks.

The cavalry officer eyed him dubiously. "Humph," he snorted. "You don't look like a very experienced horseman to me. I will test you on one simple question. When you wake up in the morning, what is the first thing you do to a horse?"

"That is easy," popped the volunteer promptly. "I put two bucks on him."

CLIMATE & MAN

Speaking before the American Chemical Society in December 1957, the famous physicist Edward Teller gave a solemn warning about the increase in the rate of carbon dioxide gas in the air. According to Dr. Teller, the carbon dioxide content of the air has gone up by 2% since the beginning of the Industrial Revolution. He said that if the rate of increase reached 10% the melting of Arctic ice would be speeded, causing the level of the oceans to rise quite considerably.

The same view had been expressed some three months earlier by delegates at the International Congress of Geodesy and Geophysics meeting in Toronto, Canada, writes Lucien Neret of *Unesco*. They stated that by the end of the century the level of the oceans would have risen by nearly 5 feet, enough to threaten many ports and seaside towns.

Adding to these observations, two well-known American scientists, Professors Maurice Ewing and William L. Donn, have stated, that the gradual melting of the Polar ice-caps would lead to condensation of the water vapour which in turn would produce continuous snow storms. Such phenomena, the two specialists believe, might well mark the beginning of a new ice-age in a hundred years' time. Both western Europe and the

eastern part of the United States would feel the effects of this cataclysm, and a layer of ice more than a mile thick might form in some parts of the world.

Such warnings, especially when they are voiced by such well-known authorities, deserve to be taken seriously and that is why special attention has been paid during the International Geophysical Year to glaciological and oceanographical research.

Over the last ten years specialists have noted a marked change in meteorological phenomena. Generally speaking, the average temperature is rising both in the northern and southern hemispheres - a fact which fits in well with the observed melting of the polar ice-caps.

But while the winters are getting warmer, the summers are now cooler. One result is that some of the fast-flowing glaciers are extending their surface; but there are other consequences. In England, cricket clubs complain that their season grows shorter every year; fisheries experts have noted that the shoals of cod are tending to move northwards; and in the last few years the Great Salt Lake in Utah has dried up by half.

Ever since the present series of bad summers began, public opinion has put the blame on nuclear and thermo-nuclear explosions. Most meteorologists, however, state that this accu-

sation is completely groundless. They stress that it would take tremendous energy, exceeding anything man is capable of producing, to exert an influence on the air circulation and the formation of anti-cyclones which lead to widespread weather disturbances.

Even a small local thunder-storm would require almost as much energy as that liberated by about fifteen hydrogen bombs. Scientists state that the average storm at sea is equal to the energy of hundreds or thousands of atomic explosions. To create a full-scale storm artificially you would have to let off atomic bombs almost every second!

Such is the opinion of most meteorologists. There are exceptions, however, and among them are authorities such as Dr. Horace R. Byers, head of the Meteorological Department of the University of Chicago, and Professor William H. Parker of the University of Manitoba.

Dr. Byers maintains that each atomic explosion increases the ionisation of the atmosphere and compromises the electrical balance between the atmosphere's positive charge and the Earth's negative charge.

As for Professor Parker, he has noted "an abnormal sensitization of the ionosphere". Recalling that the eruption of the Krakatoa volcano in 1883 was followed by several disastrous summers, he asks: "Why shouldn't artificially-produced atmospheric disturbance have similar effects?"

During the fifth meeting of the special committee for the International Geophysical Year in

Moscow last summer, I asked several meteorologists for their views on these theories. All of them expressed a negative opinion.

On the other hand, both Russian and American scientists stressed that the data transmitted by the artificial satellites has revealed a considerable density of meteoritic dust in the vicinity of our planet. They believe that this dust may play the role of ice-forming nuclei promoting the condensation of water droplets and, thereby producing the abnormal rainfall which has been noted recently in various parts of the world.

Observations carried out during the IGY also seem to prove a relationship between the appearance of sunspots and solar protuberances and variations in the climate. During periods of intense solar activity, specialists have noted an increased circulation of the air and temperature variations. It is cooler in the tropics and warmer in the polar regions. A mass of data on these phenomena has been collected all over the world during the IGY.

Once it is sifted we shall know a lot more about the influence that solar activity exerts on the earth's atmosphere.

Already artificial satellites have proved to be excellent instruments of observation, and scientists are now contemplating sending aloft satellites equipped like real meteorological stations. Launched in an orbit 3,700 miles above the Earth, such stations would take about four hours to travel from one Pole to the other. They would provide scientists

with invaluable information on the evolution of hurricanes and formation of cloud masses.

At this stage, man will have advanced a long way towards his dream of mastering the climate. Weather-making has become a necessity of modern living. As the world population grows and men strive to produce more and more food, it is important that agriculture should not be dependent on the whims of the weather.

Up to now man's "weather-making" activities have been on a very minor scale, such as inducing hail or thunderstorms over a limited area. Now two scientists—Harry Wechsler, in the United States, and Giryory Avsiuk, in the Soviet Union—speak of nothing less than changing the climate in the Arctic by melting the floating ice which has formed there over thousands of years. Technically, the plan could be successful. Its direct consequence would be to make the climate warmer and more humid over an area covering more than 7,500,000 square miles. Since only the ice floating on the sea is involved, there would be no danger of flooding such as that mentioned at the beginning of this article. Vegetation would appear again in the coldest parts of Siberia and Alaska, though glaciers might form in the mountainous areas.

All this, however, is still only a dream.

x x x

Does Water Have a Taste?

The question is discussed by two Swedish scientists, Zotterman and Herman Diamant, in

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a recent issue of the British science weekly *Nature*, and, in their opinion, the answer is both 'yes' and 'no', according to whether the taster is a frog, a dog, a pig or a monkey on the one hand, a rat or a human being on the other.

Experiments on frogs, cats, dogs, pigs and more recently on monkeys show that these animals possess nerve fibres which respond to the application of water to the tongue.

Rats, apparently, do not, nor do human beings, though the Swedish scientists stress that their evidence is based upon successful experiments in only two humans, and that they will have to collect further data before they can say definitely that man lacks a specific water taste. In their opinion, however, the application of water to the

tongue abolishes the spontaneous activity in which man's taste fibres (notably the 'salt' fibres) normally indulge. Thus, while man has no specific taste for water, water has a negative effect on taste similar to blackness upon vision.

But perhaps the best answer in this debate is that provided by the late Professor David Katz, also of Stockholm, who used to ask his students in examinations, "What is the taste of water?" The correct answer was "wet"!

x x x

Automation

Fifty years ago if someone had said that man would be able to fly in the air in luxury liners at 500 miles an hour, he would have been laughed at. Five years ago it would have been thought a mere flight of fancy if it was claimed that it would be possible to send a rocket beyond the moon and put it in orbit round the sun.

The twentieth century has seen these and many other achievements which have changed the life of man beyond comparison. The progress of science has been rapid. Steam and steel brought about a great revolution. Now atomic energy and automation promise to bring about still greater changes.

Already in large industries electronic machines are replacing men. They do the jobs much better. Now science has invented an electronic "brain" to supervise the work of electronic machines!

This "brain", which was recently on show at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology,

in considered, a marked "break through" in engineering efficiency. In many large workshops this brain can replace many engineers, it is said, thus bringing down the cost of production.

x x x

Dioramas

The thousands of visitors who each year find rest and enjoyment in the National Parks of the United States are now receiving lessons in early American history as well. These are provided through "dioramas"—three-dimensional exhibits with figures in miniature displayed against a background painting.

Historians, artists and craftsmen have been working on the project since 1935 in the U. S. National Parks Laboratory in Washington, with the dioramas placed around the country in National Parks as each is completed.

The project began with two acts of Congress in 1935 and 1936, which authorised the Secretary of the Interior "to make a survey of historical and archaeological sites to determine which possess value for illustrating the history of early America" and directed a plan be implemented for "the expansion of recreational facilities." The purpose of the acts was to "preserve and protect America's natural heritage in the National Parks for the aesthetic and cultural enjoyment of the people."

Already dioramas have been completed depicting the establishment of the first permanent English colony on American soil at Jamestown, Virginia; the surrender of the English forces under Lord Cornwallis at Yorktown,

Virginia, marking the turning point in America's struggle for independence; the First Legislative Assembly, and the attack of sixteenth century Spaniards on French civilians at Fort Caroline in the state of Florida.

Working with bits of metal leather, rubber, plaster, wax, grass, oils and wood, the artists and craftsmen have reproduced the surrender scene at Yorktown to the last detail. Flanked by French forces on the left and the American forces on the right under the command of General Benjamin Lincoln, the diorama shows Major General O'Hara and his English troops as they marched to the tune of "The World Upside Down."

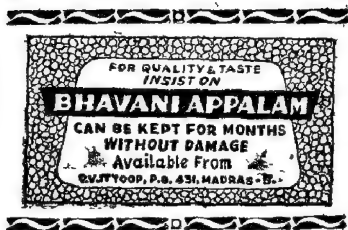
For accuracy and detail the scene will bear close inspection, and required six months to create. The figures of men and horses were made to scale $1\frac{1}{2}$ inches to a foot. Each one required at least a week to mould and paint.

When the U. S. Department of Interior completes its programme in 1966, the 50th anniversary of the National Parks Service, the American public will have new roads, more lodgings, better recreational facilities and 100 new museum buildings. (Will our Government, or Gandhi Smarak Nidhi follow the example?-Ed K).

x x x

Kalinga Prize Winner

Professor Karl von Frisch, zoologist and scientific writer, who is well-known for his research on the sensorial physiology of insects and fish has been awarded the Kalinga Prize for



the popularization of science.

Professor von Frisch is the author of more than a hundred scientific studies, the most remarkable of which deal with his research on bees, their life, language and sense of orientation. These studies have helped scientists to probe such mysteries as how insects—and birds, too—are able to "navigate" so accurately. Professor von Frisch's experiments have shown that bees' eyes see polarized light in the sky, enabling them to distinguish zones of different shades by which they can orient themselves.

x x x

Exploring the Earth

Man has been exploring the earth since at least the beginning of history. But never before has his look been as extensive, nor as penetrating—nor as well organised and coordinate—as in the 1957-1958 International Geophysical Year. A mountain of data has been accumulated. And in the process a new age has dawned for man—the Age of Space.

Ten thousand scientists from 66 nations have flung man-made "moons" into outer space. They have touched ocean bottoms to measure currents and study marine life. And at the marrow-chilling polar caps they have

studied winds, temperature, snow and ice.

At the heart of many of the IGY studies is the sun itself. Indeed, the period of the IGY was selected to coincide with a period of intense activity on the surface of the sun — activity that has marked effects upon the earth's upper atmosphere. And scientists, studying the sun's activities, have come up with some remarkable findings.

They have learned that the sun has a magnetic field — a source of magnetic electrical power — eight thousand times more powerful than the earth's. And scientists now think that magnetic fields may extend through all of space, both in our solar system and beyond. These fields apparently give cosmic rays their almost unbelievable energy, boosting them along in successive kicks. Some day, scientists speculate, these magnetic rays may become a key means of long-range space travel — providing that man is able to harness their power to space craft.

Scientists have learned something about solar flares, too. These explosions on the sun — now at an 11-year peak — exceed in energy a thousand million-fold the power of hydrogen bombs. In addition to regular rays of light and heat, pieces of electrically charged matter are shot out in these explosions. These tiny fractions of matter create a charged layer that blankets the earth. It is this layer, for example, that absorbs radio waves and disrupts long-range communications. Further information about this layer,

scientists believe, will result in improved communications

The first 12 months of IGY witnessed also the repeated success of man's first attempts to launch satellites carrying scientific instruments outside the earth's dense atmosphere. Before the era of space satellites man's knowledge of outer space was uncertain at best, derived by indirect means. Now, with seven man-made "moons" successfully launched by scientists of the Soviet Union and the United States, man's ability to probe outer space has been vastly extended.

In the Antarctic, international cooperative efforts successfully established the first regular weather reporting for this bleak region of ice and snow. And scientists there, representing 12 nations, got their first good look at what has now turned out to be a monster ice pack. Instead of being a solid land mass, IGY ice studies show that the Antarctic continent is made up of frozen lakes, fjords and other irregularities. Returning echoes from shock waves produced by explosions in the ice enabled scientists to gauge the icy thickness of the continent at the bottom of the world. Their findings: vast layers of ice, as much as 14,000 feet thick. For example, Byrd Station, an American base, although only 5,000 feet above sea level nevertheless sits on 10,000 feet of ice. And the South Pole itself has 9,000 feet of ice under it.

Other findings in the Antarctic indicate that previous estimates of the volume of ice effecting world weather will have to be revised drastically upwards by

as much as 40 percent. And a new cold record of 125.3 degrees below zero Fahrenheit (-87.4 degrees Centigrade) was reported recently by Soviet scientists at their Antarctic station at Vostok. At the same time, Dr. Harry Wexler, chief scientist of the American Antarctic programme, reports that the Antarctic has apparently warmed up some five degrees since 1912.

At the opposite end of the world, in the far north, scientists have actually found the polar ice to be shrinking. Their studies indicate that perhaps by the end of the century it may even be possible to navigate, with the aid of icebreakers, the now frozen Arctic Ocean.

As a result of IGY oceanographic studies, important new information has been gathered on the deep ocean currents, on the mixing of surface and bottom waters, and on the mineral wealth on the bottom of the oceans. Scientists have also discovered on the bottom of the Pacific

Ocean a mountain range 1,000 miles long and 200 miles wide. In the Pacific's water depths, too, they found an "ocean river" at least 3,500 miles long. It is a separate current of water running counter to main ocean currents.

These are only a few of the many findings. Tons of data have already been collected — enough to keep scientists busy for years. Some findings have already proved of practical benefit as for example the report from air lines in Latin Americas that one day's weather observations by an IGY network provided storm data worth the cost of the entire project. Other findings, for the moment, serve only to satisfy the ageless curiosity of man about his environment. Eventually, however, scientists are confident the results of the studies will benefit all mankind in terms of better weather forecasting, better radio communications, better crops, safer travel, and a keener knowledge of the world we live in.

THE SUPERIOR MAN

Here is a man who treats me in a perverse and unreasonable manner. The superior man in such a case will turn round upon himself: "I must have been wanting in benevolence. I must have been wanting in propriety. How should this have happened to me?"

He examines himself and is specially benevolent. He turns round upon himself, and is specially observant of propriety. The perversity and unreasonableness of the other, however, are still the same. The superior man will again turn round on himself: "I must have been failing to do my utmost."

When it appears proper to take a thing, and afterwards not proper, to take it is contrary to moderation. When it appears proper to give a thing and afterwards not proper, to give it is contrary to kindness. When it appears proper to sacrifice one's life, and afterwards not proper, to sacrifice it is contrary to bravery.

Truth Machine Simplifies Ike - Krushchev Letters !

Those who have been following the U.S.-Soviet exchanges over Berlin will find the following from N. Y. Times very interesting

In keeping with a promise once made to a lady reader this department has again appealed to the clairvoyant attributes of its big electronic truth detector, Uniquack, to translate, decontaminate and interpret the latest Eisenhower-Khrushchev correspondence on Berlin. What emerged was the following:

Dear Mr. President,

Anastas and I have a dandy new idea for getting you and the other warmongers out of Berlin. We can't tell you precisely what it is, but we'll give you a hint: the idea is to have the East German Communists deny you your rights in Berlin instead of us denying them ourselves.

Please let us know how you feel about this right away, for our patience will be exhausted on May 27, and after that there may be war.

Yours for peace,

NIKITA S. KHRUSHCHEV.

P. S.: Anastas had a circus in America. Why don't you invite me over sometime?

x x x

Dear Mr. Prime Minister,

Thanks for your note, which I referred at once to Walter Reed Hospital. (Dulles was in hospital then.) Foster and I are not going to give a single inch on Berlin, but we want to have a

foreign ministers' conference to talk about it.

Frankly, we don't think much of letting the East German troops replace the Soviet troops on the roads to Berlin. We want you to go away and leave the 51,000,000 West Germans to take over the 17,000,000 East Germans after free elections. But if you won't agree to this, we want you to keep your troops there.

I won't say we like them, but we've become accustomed to them.

Disrespectfully yours,

DWIGHT D. EISENHOWER.

P. S.: We don't want you over here.

x x x

Dear Mr. President,

I think we can straighten this thing out if we can just have a great big heads-of-government meeting somewhere. The main thing is not to prepare anything but just get everybody together. I'm bored with talking to reporters and Senators (that Humphrey!). Let's have a big blow-out, bigger than the Congress of Vienna. I'll bring Gomulka and the rest of the boys, and you can bring Castro. What do you say?

Hopefully,

NIKITA S. KHRUSHCHEV.

P. S.: I'm sorry to read that

you still have cancer in America. We abolished it in the Soviet Union right after Stalin.

x x x

Dear Mr. Prime Minister,

Your proposal for a heads-of-government meeting arrived while Prime Minister Macmillan was in Moscow. You were so nice to him and your conversations were so fruitful that I think I can see why you prefer to negotiate with other heads of governments.

However, even if I don't have a Foreign Minister, I insist it is better to have the foreign ministers not solving these problems than to have the heads-of-government not solving them.

Faithfully yours,

DWIGHT D. EISENHOWER.

P. S.: How did you like Macmillan's fur hat?

x x x

Dear Mr. President,

Every once in a while I get the feeling that you don't wholly trust me. As is well known, I have made one concession after another. I have suggested "disengagement" in Germany and you don't like that. I have offered "engagement" and you're against that. I have even offered to stop testing atomic weapons, provided only that you don't check up on me.

This is all very frustrating. I am worried about Berlin. I want to get this bone out of my throat, but you reply that you won't give an inch.

Yours for a happy May 27,

NIKITA S. KHRUSHCHEV.

P. S.: How about half an inch?

x x x

Dear Mr. Prime Minister,

The last time we gave half an inch, you swallowed all of China and Eastern Europe. No wonder your throat is sore.

Our position is clear. We will let the East Germans act as your agents. They may stamp our transit papers to Berlin as "agents" but not as principals. We will let them look in the back of our trucks but not in the front of our trucks, but this must stop short of inspection.

The allies are determined about this, or anyway almost determined or at any rate, a little determined. We hope you are bluffing, and we hope we are not bluffing and if you we are not bluffing, I say you should talk about it with Foster, or Chris Herter, or Jack McCloy, or Livy Merchant, or the United Nations or somebody.

Sincerely,

DWIGHT D. EISENHOWER.

P. S.: Why don't you take a vacation in May?

What belongs by his nature to the superior man are benevolence, righteousness, propriety, and knowledge. These are rooted in his heart.

x x x

The great man is he who does not lose his child's heart.

x x x

That whereby man differs from the lower animals is but small. The mass of people cast it away, while superior men preserve it.

THE INDIVIDUAL & DHARMA

What is Indian Culture? In the following article the heads of Ahobila Mutt, Udipi Pejavar Mutt, the Tirg-nana Sambandar Adinam and Sri Kanchi Kamakoti Mutt, define what Indian culture is and say that the path of dharma has to be blazed anew in the image of the traditional Indian culture.

VELANDAI

Indian culture as typified in our eternal dharma functions very much as a tree does. A detailed study in comparison will be truly revealing. Dharma and the individual are related to each other exactly as the tree and the leaf are. This at all events is the basic truth. Dharma like the tree is the lasting asset. The individual like the leaf is a passing phenomenon.

Every tree gives out a whole set of new leaves every year. The green tender leaf-bud deepens its hue and changes every day till it becomes the full-grown leaf. The green then fades away perceptibly into a golden yellow, the leaf browns, thins out, dries up and falls. It is the same untiring, unalterable story year after year. The tree on the other hand has a fairly long life, eternal-looking perhaps, in comparison with the brief life vouchsafed to the leaf at all times and under all circumstances. The tree puts out powerful branches in all directions, each fanning out in its turn into an endless maze of brown and green. As the leaves



mature the young blossoms appear, the flowers dominate for a while and fade away as the fruits take shape and grow. The tree thus functions in an endless cycle not to sustain itself but to succour the whole world. The leaf does not last a whole year but its role is vital. It is an offshoot of the tree but pays back its debt of blood by nursing the

tree at the time and reconditioning it for the next year's duty. But the leaf itself fades and falls away in the full satisfaction of duty done.

The individual man and the individual leaf are very much alike. Dharma is eternal; the individual has only a brief span of life and then passes away. Man is an offshoot of dharma even as the leaf is born out of the tree. What exactly does the leaf do? It enables the tree to breathe. It absorbs energy from the sun's rays by means of the chlorophyll contained in its cells. It builds up and transmits to the tree the life-giving stream of plant food. It succours in all possible ways the tree which gave it birth. That duty done, it develops a physical detachment, grows old gracefully and even in death enriches the soil in which the tree is embedded. Human life ought to function in the same manner.

With dharma as the trunk humanity branches out in all directions. Smaller and yet smaller branches fork out endlessly. They function in seemingly separate divisions, groups and clusters, but all to the same central purpose. The little dead-end clusters are the family units. Each little sector puts out its own blossoms and fruits, though perhaps differing in degree.

Each leaf has a distinctive individuality even as every man has. No individual is exactly definable in the abstract. No two faces are quite alike, even those of the so-called identical twins. And yet family likenesses and certain distinctive group forms are easily discernible even in the

midst of an endless variety. Each leaf with its distinctive pattern is very much like man, an entity all by itself. But there is this essential difference. The leaf wants nothing for itself and makes the supreme sacrifice with a sense of duty by the parent while man is nearly always acquisitive revelling in strife and discord, and often forgetful of the fundamental unity of all life in relation to the central and eternal dharma. He has a duty to live and function in dharma conscious all the time that he should succour and support society as a whole. Dharma is the eternal spring of all human endeavour. Selfishness and neglect of duty will dry it up eventually. We have to take a lesson from the leaf and avoid that catastrophe.

Our ancient religion which has stood the test of time is called dharma. It is universal in its appeal. It has the unique character of striving for the welfare of humanity as a whole and not of its votaries alone. No other religion does this. All of us can really be proud of this fact.

We did not have our being just yesterday, and strut about to-day only to get lost tomorrow. We are the most ancient among the world's peoples. We stuck to high principles and prospered. Living in dharma was the most dominant factor that enabled us to prosper. The unfailing rule of justice gave us a sense of fulfilment. High character and disciplined endeavour gave us immense success. We became enslaved when we moved away from these basic principles.

The path of dharma had to be blazed anew in the image of our traditional culture and as a result we are free once again. But in the mad rush of the recent years, we seem to be fast getting away from our basic moorings again. Only by the assiduous cultivation of character and by living always with God enshrined in our hearts we can make our lives worthwhile and serve our motherland and humanity aright. If we realise the correct relationship that should subsist between

man and dharma, the rest becomes easy. Even as the leaf does, let us in our time strive to strengthen the base of dharma by practising it in our individual and collective endeavours. Let us practise dharma in our lives and the future will take care of itself. Let us have faith in God; seek His guidance in every thought and deed. God and dharma are inextricably intertwined. If we give up the one, we give up the other as well. That is the lesson of history, even of our times.

FIVE THINGS TO REMEMBER

1. Talkativeness is an early sign of unwillingness to learn. It will lead you to a final inability to learn anything. Try to be a good listener.

2. Do not get suspicious of people and their motives. Avoid prying into the affairs of people. Do not imagine that the so-called wisdom acquired by you from experience will help people, unless they feel the need.

3. Do not try to attract sympathy to yourself. Be a real person, with a valuation that does not need artificial boosting.

4. There are three qualities that you can develop as you grow older: courtesy, tolerance and integrity, which together make an understanding spirit. By courtesy I mean the ability to put yourself in the place of other people. By tolerance I do not mean an easy-going acceptance of everything, but the capacity to understand the point of view of others. By integrity I mean the wholeness of spirit that does not scour a narrow chamber.

5. As you grow older, self-criticism tends to become blunted.

—James Mackintosh.

There never was any heart truly great and gracious that was also not tender and compassionate.

—Robert South.

It is a principle of human nature to hate those whom you have injured.

—Plato.

Everything great is not always good, but all good things are great.

—Demosthenes.

A pound of care will not pay an ounce of debt.

—A proverb.

FEAR & WORRY: MAN'S TWO GREATEST ENEMIES

DR. M. A. KAMATH *

Our thoughts, various mental states and emotions do all produce their effects on the physical body. Suppose a telegram brings sudden and unhappy news, you grow pale, you tremble and you might even fall into a fit: or, a friend says something to you at the dinner table, something which is unpleasant; you feel hurt by it, you have been enjoying your dinner, but from that moment you have no appetite for food. Again, a sudden emergency arises, you stand trembling and weak with fear and powerless to move, or you are for a moment dominated by a fit of anger and for a few hours afterwards you complain of violent headache all this because your thought and emotions have produced their effects on your system. For the same reason people given greatly to mental worry cannot be strong and vigorous or active.

We have several well authenticated cases of the relation of the mind to body-functions like the following:

A mother has been dominated for a few moments by a sudden and intense passion of anger, and the child at the breast has died within the next hour; so much poisoned became her milk under the influence of anger. In other

cases similar fits of anger on the part of the mother have caused severe illness and convulsions in the child at the breast.

It is well known that sudden and violent emotions have not only weakened the heart but have caused death or insanity.

It has been discovered by scientists that there is a chemical difference between that sudden cold sweat of a person under a deep sense of guilt and the ordinary perspiration, and the state of the mind can sometimes be determined by chemical analysis of the perspiration of a criminal. It is well known that fear has killed thousands, while courage is a great invigorator. Small mental emotion often causes giddiness and vomiting; extreme anger or fright may produce jaundice. A violent paroxysm of rage has caused apoplexy and death. And indeed in more than one instance a single night of mental agony has wrecked lives. Grief, long standing jealousy, constant worry and corroding anxiety have in several instances developed insanity. Sick thoughts and discordant moods are the natural atmosphere of disease and crime is engendered and thrives in the miasma of the mind.

That mental worry causes indi-

* From "Hinduism and Modern Science" by Dr. M. A. Kamath, Vidhyarthi Bhavan Road, Mangalore. (Mysore State). Price Rs. 4 50.

gestion, ulcer of the stomach and certain other illnesses has been proved at the Tavistock Clinic and the Royal Free Hospital, London. In fact it is said that ulcer of the stomach is in origin a disturbance of the mind and deserves no more and no less attention than does dyspepsia, which is also in many cases an imaginary malady.

In regard to the mode of operation of these mental states, emotions and passions, physiologists say it is due to the activities of the endocrine organs, or ductless glands, which act not singly but more or less in co-ordination with one another.

"The whole of human life," says Waldo Trine, "is cause and effect. There is no such thing in it as chance, nor is there even in all the wide universe. Are we not satisfied with whatever comes into our lives? The thing to do then, is not to spend time in railing against the imaginary something we create and call "fate," but to look to the within, and change the causes at work there in order that things of a different nature may come, for there will come exactly what we cause to come.

"And then whatever does come to one depends for its effects entirely upon his mental attitude towards it. Does this or that occurrence or condition cause you annoyance? Very well, it causes you annoyance and so disturbs your peace because you allow it to.

"You are born to have absolute control over your own dominion, but if you voluntarily hand over this power, even it be for a little while, to some one or

to something else, then you of course become the creature, the one controlled."

There is probably no agent that brings us more undesirable conditions than fear. We should live in fear of nothing. An old French proverb says,

"Some of your grief you have cured,

And the sharpest you still have survived,

But what torments of pain you endured

From evils that never arrived!"

In other words, most of our sharpest griefs are of our own making, of our own imagination.

"Where are you going?" asked an Eastern Pilgrim on meeting the Plague one day. "I am going to Bagdad to kill 5000 people," was the reply. A few days later the same pilgrim met the Plague returning. "You told me you were going to Bagdad to kill 5000 people," said he, "but instead, you killed 50,000." "No," said the Plague, "I killed only 5000 as I told you I would, the others died of fright."

Fear can paralyse any muscle in the body, fear affects the flow of the blood, likewise the normal and healthy action of all the life forces. Fear can make the body rigid, motionless and powerless to move.

Fear and worry, then, and all kindred mental states will bring their own peculiar type of ailment. An inordinate love of gain, a close fisted hoarding disposition will have kindred effects. Anger, jealousy, malice, continual fault-finding, lust—each has its own peculiar corroding, weakening, tearing down effects.

"The bodies of almost untold



KNOW YOUR LUCK

P. V. RAO, 2/5, BESANT RD, MADRAS-5

MESHA RASI or ARIES

Planetary map obtaining during the month is fairly encouraging as to your state of affairs and surroundings in which you are placed. The solar course through the 12th house might temporarily bring about a setback regarding the successful termination of your affairs and this may seem to disappoint you. The second half when the solar course is passing through your rasi is calculated to streamline your activities with greater enthusiasm and spirit in order to enable you to achieve the desired goal. Sukra enters the second house of wealth from the 9th which confers assuredly better financial conveniences and adjustments in financial matters. Your sources of income will increase. There may be money coming through your relations on wife's side and also through your own exertion during this month. New know-

Aswani
harani &
Krithika

ledge will be gained. Students will do well in their examination and gain more satisfactory result for their performances. Domestically second half is happier. Your wife will contribute to your prosperity. Children will give you greater satisfaction than before. Eye patients will get relief during this month. Officially second half is undoubtedly better. There may be even promotion or extra money gained. Socially this is a very emotional month. Young men may have extra love escapades. Marriage in many cases becomes an accomplished fact. Merchants will be successful mostly in the second half. New enterprises will be attempted. Speculation will be lucrative.

2, 4, 8, 11, 15, 16, 25, 29, 30 are good days.

VRISHABHA RASI or TAURUS

First half of this month is

‡ Krithika
Rohini & ‡
Mrigashira

favourably configura-
ted for your general
success. Sun trine
Guru will then afford

you unexpected favours from the higher ups and from big companies or firms or banks even as the case may be. There may be heavy expenditure in the second half beyond your control. A house move may be made or necessary amenities may be tried for. Your ruler Sukra enters his own house on the 9th when you may expect greater success and accomplishments of your plan through the help of people around you. But Mangal-Sani opposition may not prove a congenial factor for a happy tranquil flow of life without resistance thereby causing differences and disputes with people in the sphere of your activities. Avoid any such occasion leading to eventual rupture during this month. Your own words will prove caustic to many and be responsible for your unexpected failure when you expect happy termination of affairs. Sukra and Guru opposition from the 15th may bring about an adverse relationship with either relatives or with religious heads. Financially this is a hard month till the 12th when your ruler of finance becomes direct. You will thereafter feel greater flow of financial help and easier adjustments in respect of your commitments. Officially there may be some favour through your boss in the first half. Often Mangal - Sani ends in rupture when you seek your boss's help. But you may not altogether be disappointed in official matters. Merchants will

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~~~~~  
have a good time of it in the first half. New partnership may be formed in the second half. Foreign business will be lucky during this month.

2, 6, 8, 11, 14, 15, 16, 21, 25,
30 are good days.

MITHUNA RASI

Planetary condition characterises the events of the month as an admixture of both good and bad happenings. The major planets continue to work unfavourably. The minor planets especially those in the 10th and 11th houses are calculated to improve your condition but the expected favours are not easily obtained. Guru is mainly responsible for this slow-down and a disturbed surrounding. Second half will prove gainful through friends, relations and patrons. Your own people, say, your brother, will come to help you in your troubles. Avoid friction as far as possible with your people or friends in all matters. Two friends of yours might be seen

rallying round you apparently to your advantage, but in the long run they will prove quarrelsome. Financially this month may offer you better conveniences. From the 10th April when the lord of expenditure Sukra enters his own house your expenditure will be doubled. Your own relations will claim more attention and expenses. Also one of your children. Officially you may gain during this month. A journey may take place to your advantage. Your boss might consider your claims more sympathetically. Merchants will find this month irksome and not successful in their speculations. Financially they may not lose much but may try to improve their resources. Partnership may not work well.

2, 3, 8, 11, 14, 15, 16, 25, 27, are good days.

KARKATAKA RASI or CANCER

With the exception of Mangal in the 12th house
 † Punarvasu almost all other
 Pushya & planets are well
 Ashlesha aligned for the

general success of your affairs. Major planets continue to radiate favourable influences through higher people from whom you may seek favour. The children perhaps might cause you anxiety temporarily. Sukra in the 9th does not speak of your mental peace and success in your activities in general. But Guru's trine might minimise this to some extent. Mangal in the 12th aspected by a malefic might unnecessarily excite you to your detriment. Sukra will be found very helpful in obtaining your desired

goal. Your friends will play a greater roll in your affairs than ever before. Marriage, if any, might prove successful. Financially this month is much more favourable in the second half when the lord of wealth becomes exalted and the lord of gain comes to his own house. This is, therefore, an important month in respect of your finances. All attempts will be made successfully for the achievement of financial benefits. Officially the month is encouraging particularly from the second half onwards. Your boss will be pleased with your performance. Change of work will prevail. But beware of one your subordinates stealthily prejudicing your boss against you. Merchants will find this a most lucrative month than the last. They will be able to bag more profits than before. Partnership will be a success. Business development will prove more encouraging.

8, 11, 15, 16, 23, 26, 27, 29, 30 are good days.

SIMHA RASI or LEO

The solar course through the 8th house in the first half may not prove happy as to the success of your undertakings as well as your domestic life.

Makha,
 Poorvaphal-
 guna and
 † Uthara-
 Phalgun

You may be bothered by many problems both at home and outside. Health problem is the central point engaging your attention. In some cases it may be a journey, in other cases it may be the execution of a will or settlement of family property or money. Guru's help in these matters will be tangibly felt in

spite of other troubles, for carrying out your plan. Mangal's aspect to Sani does not envisage any happy relationship with people higher up or friends. Avoid any conflict or disturbance near about the 22nd April. Financially this month does not hold out satisfactory solution. After the 12th Budha, your financial lord, gets direct motion causing all your financial affairs to run more smoothly and conveniently than before. From the 9th Sukra enters the elevation house making it easy for you to come in contact with people or undertake a new project and realise your cherished goal. A brother of yours will come up well to your satisfaction. All correspondence about your professional activities, job, career interest and extra curricular activities will be more emphasised than before. Second half onwards, you will be lucky through higher ups, associations, companies or banks, if you seek their favours. A long journey is indicated in a few cases. Legal matters will claim your attention. Officially this is an opportune period for realising your goal. Merchants will find this month more prosperous in the second half. New business problem might be solved. Foreign business will be found more lucrative.

1, 6, 8, 11, 14, 15, 16, 21, 25, 30 are good days.

● KANYA RASI or VIRGO

Planetary positions do not portend safe delivery of goods to you during this month. Planets are ill placed or ill designed

‡ Uttara-
phalgun
Hastha and
‡ Chitra

ned against your interest. It is, therefore, safer on your part to proceed in the line of least resistance without disturbing or disrupting the current state of affairs. The month's picture indicates that you need the support and team work of co-workers in your scheme of things. Financially better conditions prevail after the 9th April when Sukra enters his own house. Here then is your chance to make money through distant places, relations at a distance, banks, or big concerns, or even from a foreign land. This is a very delicate period when any false step on your part will react against your interests. A ceremony may occur or may be attended by you. Second half may prove more expensive. A journey may be envisaged. Avoid excitement in all your undertakings. The two malefic planets, Mangal and Sani, are aspecting your rasi while your own lord Budha is also debilitated in the 7th house of Makara. You are, therefore, advised to be extremely careful as to your health, and you have to take notice of the least symptom of health trouble before it becomes too late. Domestically you may feel better from the second half in spite of troubles around you. Officially you may not gain much as against your rivals carrying away the prizes aspired by you. Merchants will find this month more favourable for foreign business but are advised to eliminate speculation as far as possible. Friction with other partners will prevail.

4, 7, 8, 11, 15, 16, 25, 30 are good days.

THULA RASI or LIBRA

Planetary conditions obtaining during this month radiate greater benefic influences over your rasi.

‡ Chitra
Swathi and
‡ Vishaka

Mangal having moved away from the 8th house is quite promising for the fulfilment of all your pending affairs of last month. Sukra will enter the 8th which is his own house while Surya enters the 7th house. This will enable you to accomplish your cherished plans domestic and official. A journey may be envisaged since Surya is coursing through the chara rasi. Health trouble owing to throat complaint, stomach ache or even eye complaint may be in the month's picture for some of you. Financially this is a more lucky period than before. Money may come unexpectedly or sources of income may improve considerably. Domestically this is a better month in spite of incongruent elements around you. House problem may occupy your mind for some time. Avoid friction as far as possible. Officially this is an important month for you to gain through your boss. Change of work is indicated. Merchants will do well to concentrate their speculation on the foreign market only. Profits will be satisfactory. Partners may grumble financially.

3, 4, 7, 8, 11, 12, 15, 16, 18, 20, 23, 25, 27, 29, 30 are good days.

VRISHCHIKA RASI or SCORPIO

Planetary combination does not presage happy state of affairs during this month.

‡ Vishaka,
Anuradha,
& Jeshta.

Mangal in the 8th, Sani in the 2nd, debilitated Budha are all ill designed against your interests causing you mental depression, physical trouble, false allegations, or disturbed surroundings. Surya in the 5th will not prove gainful on account of your mental unrest. From the second half planets indicate brighter prospects making you more active mentally and physically. Health problem has to be carefully and rightly and timely handled. Sukra entering the 7th house which is his own augurs well for your domestic life. Avoid disputes with wife's side people. Financially this is a very expensive period. Money has to be raised temporarily for your commitments. You may gain through relations or your business as the case may be. Avoid all emotional flare-ups and romantic episodes that may crop up during the month after the 9th. Domestically second half is happier and conjugally harmonious. Officially second half will prove more gainful to you. Promotion or a transfer may be there in the second half. Avoid rupture with your subordinates. Merchants will do well from the 9th onwards. New partnerships may be formed to your advantage. New business connections may be established. Foreign business will appeal to you more during this month.

2, 6, 7, 8, 11, 15, 16, 21, 23, 25, 29 and 30 are good days.

DANU RASI or SAGITARIUS

Planetary alignment does not portend beneficial results. All the major planets are ill aligned causing you mental uneasiness, failure in your attempts, delay and disappointments, unnecessary discussions and differences and court proceedings in some cases. The two malefics, Sani and Mangal, may cause you unnecessary excitement and false hopes. It is advisable that you don't take any initiative in your undertakings unless you are very well backed up by favourable radical planetary strength of your current dasa. First half causes greater expenditure and greater difficulties to meet your commitments. Unexpected items of expenditure may have to be faced during the month. Second half is slightly better. There may be necessity to raise money. You may get money through friends and relations. Avoid friction with friends and relations in money matters. This is not a month of harmony and happy conjugal life for reasons beyond your control. House problem might bring about unnecessary anxiety. Officially you may not gain much. There may be friction and differences with your colleagues. You have to be above board in all your financial handlings. Merchants will not find this month lucky. Second half might be slightly better but misunderstanding with partners will increase. Second half is more favourable especially for foreign business.

1, 2, 8, 9, 10, 14, 15, 16, 25, 28, 30 are better days.

MAKARA RASI or CAPRICORN

With the exception of your ruler, the major planet Sani, ill placed in the 12th house, all other planets are favourably configured for the success of your affairs. Guru and other planets will bring you the cherished results with greater ease and grace for your satisfaction. Many of your pending affairs will be well settled in the first half while the second half shows that you will be very anxious about a house move. An elderly person may cause you some anxiety as to his health. You may find yourself financially better after the 1st half. There may be money coming through others or from any joint interest with others. Sukra enters the 5th house of children and speculation and you will have the moral strength to lead others or organise or conduct the affairs of others during the month. Mangal in the 6th house aspected by Sani may cause some rupture with your relations or affect your health. General debility may set in some cases. Your system might generate extra heat thereby disturbing your health. Financially this is a favourable month if your dasa bhukti is favourable. This is an opportune month for you to gain some unexpected money too. In a few cases this will cause you financial pressure or involvement. Officially this is a better month than the last one. Your boss will be

pleased with your performance. Change of work may be in the month's picture. Merchants will be speculatively inclined and lucky and bag unexpected profits during this month.

2, 3, 4, 7, 8, 9, 11, 14, 15, 16, 19, 20, 22, 27, 30 are good days.

KUMBA RASI or AQUARIUS

Planetary positions speak favourably of your affairs during this month. The general trend of their positions assures you greater success and popularity. Ravi—Guru trine helps you much to unearth unexplored sources of income so that you may enjoy greater conveniences of money than before. Surya in the second half refers to your elders, a journey, important correspondence, marriage ceremony, if any, or luck through your wife. Sukra's position from the 9th is equally eloquent as to your favourable domestic affairs, solution of house problem, your guests who are your relations, your concern as to your parents and finally your successful court affairs, if any. The month indicates that you will be advancing in your career. Mangal in the 5th whose lord Budha debilitated in the 2nd, may cause you some unexpected anxiety about your children. One of them might cause you severe disappointment. Financially this is a very congenial month as you will be able to raise money or find conveniences as and when you require them. Expenses are heavy beyond your control on account of Mangal's aspect to

the 12th house. A couple of friends of yours are calculated to cause you disappointment. Accident is possible in the first half. Officially this is a month of good encouragement and boss's favour. Merchants will find this month quite lucky if they eliminate risk of speculation.

2, 8, 9, 11, 15, 16, 18, 19, 25, 28, 29, 30 are good days.

MEENA RASI or PISCES

Planetary configurations are slightly better than last month. Major planets continue as before in their indications of your outside as well as home activities. Budha debilitated on your rasi coupled with Mangal in the 4th house without benefic aspect bodes ill in affairs of domestic and official interests. The only relief is afforded by your ruler Guru who is happily posited in the 9th house with blessings of God against all your impending troubles. First half may cause you anxiety through enemies or disturb your health or that of your wife causing heavy expenditure. Your ruler, the major planet Sani, is aspecting the house of trouble and heavy expenditure. This feature continues in general for a couple of years. Financially there is greater help envisaged through your relations, friends or through correspondence. You may have to help your near relations. Avoid friction with them. A journey is indicated in the second half. Indebtedness may be a characteristic of the month. Domestically this is not a happy month on account of incongru-

ent elements around you. Officially second half may prove slightly better. There may be boss's favour as to change of your duty which you desire. Your work is troublesome and more responsible. Merchants will find this month favourable for foreign business in particular. Local business may not end satisfactorily owing to differences or friction with your customers. Correspondence will pave the way for future business success.

2, 3, 8, 9, 11, 14, 15, 16, 20, 22, 25, 27, 30 are good days.

EAGER FOR A KISS

A famous star visited a military hospital during the last war, where she tried to comfort the interned soldiers.

"Did you kill a Nazi?" she asked one of the wounded soldiers.

"Yes, lady," he replied.

"Which hand did you use?"

"My right hand," informed the hero whereupon the star lifted the fellow's hand and bestowed a kiss on it.

Then she ambled over to the next bed where the patient volunteered, "I killed hundreds of Nazis."

"And which hand did you kill them with?"

The Tommy leaned forward eagerly. "I bit them to death," he responded.

AT YOUR SERVICE

The sweet young thing was watching drill one day. Suddenly a rifle volley rang out. With a surprised scream the lovely young girl shrank back directly into the arms of a young private who was standing behind her.

"Oh," she stammered with a blush, "I was so frightened by the rifles. Won't you please forgive me?"

"Not at all. Not at all," spoke up the quick witted private. "Let us go over and watch the artillery."

HIS ONLY THOUGHT

A detachment of Scotch Highlanders returned to their base after a dangerous sortie into Rommel's lines. Noses were counted and it was found that Josh Mactavish was missing.

"He was fair blown to bits by a bomb," reported one of the party.

"Oh!" mourned Sandy. "You did not happen to see his head, did you? He was smoking my pipe."

"He told me he could live on my kisses for ever."

"Are you going to let him?"

"Not until I find out what I'm going to live on."

Example has more followers than reason.

Soviet Probe Into Secret Of Life

What is the secret of life? Man has made tremendous progress in solving nature's secrets but the fundamental and the most profound question regarding life and how it is created has not been answered yet.

It is known that tobacco virus which is in the form of crystals begins to grow when it is brought into contact with the plant. What happens to these crystals when they pass from the inanimate to the animate form?

Dr. N. N. Semyonov of the USSR Academy of Sciences is of the view that this transition from inanimate to animate matter is connected with the appearance in the latter of certain new physio-chemical properties existing in embryo form, in the inanimate matter known to us. Otherwise satisfactory behaviour of the organism cannot be ensured.

If this is so then chemists with their present knowledge must be able to identify it.

If this problem is solved, he says, we shall be able to get an insight into the mechanism of the fundamental biochemical processes, including metabolism. It is difficult even to imagine the whole importance of such discovery and all its consequences. It will promote chemotherapy (curing methods based on the action of small doses of specific substances, such as the commonly known sulphamide prepara-

tions, hormones, penicillin etc.), from the experimental to the theoretical level and open the possibility of successful treatment of such terrible diseases as cancer, etc. This discovery will also result in an intelligent control of heredity in plants and animals.

Knowledge of these processes will be equally significant for industry. If we have a clear insight into the mechanism of action of enzymes which according to Pavlov, are the exciters of all chemical transformations in the organism, what can keep us from carrying their working principle into industry to intensify and specialize chemico-technological processes to an unprecedented degree?

The live organism is an aggregate of physio-chemical properties manifested in the specific complex structure of the organism. But separate new physio-chemical properties of the organism can be reproduced artificially in modified form in inanimate nature.

For example, the working principle of muscles having been made clear, we will probably be able to apply these principles in modified form to inanimate nature and make new hitherto unheard of machines, nothing like those of the present day, but more convenient in a number of fields of engineering. It is common knowledge that in the work of muscles chemical energy

passes directly into mechanical with an efficiency greatly exceeding that of internal combustion engines. That is why the muscle can serve as a prototype of a fundamentally new engine, or a model of a new method of transforming energy.

FAR LOOKING

A draft officer looked up at the raw-boned farm hand standing before him and said, "I guess the cavalry is the place for you."

"No, sir," said the young farmer firmly. "Anything but the cavalry, if you don't mind."

"What is your prejudice against the cavalry my boy?" asked the officer.

"Mister," said the farm boy, "when it comes to retreating I don't want to be bothered by no horse."

NOT SUCH A FOOL

A soldier on his first guard duty halted the officer for routine recognition.

"What would you have done if I hadn't halted?" the officer asked.

"Why, I would have called the Corporal of the Guard, sir."

"Oh, no, you wouldn't."

"Yes, sir. I would have called the Corporal to help haul your dead carcass away."

Women are much more like each other than men; they have in truth but two passions, vanity and love.

There is a great deal of difference between the eager man who wants to read a book, and the tired man who wants a book to read.—*Charles Dickens*.

Do not do unto others as you would they should do unto you. Their tastes may not be the same.—*G. B. Shaw*.

Man is a pliable animal, a being who gets accustomed to everything.—*Dostoevsky*.

Genius is one percent inspiration and ninety nine percent perspiration.—*Thomas Alva Edison*.

Animals are such admirable friends—they ask no questions, they pass no criticisms.—*George Eliot*.

If a man can write a better book, preach a better sermon, or make a better mousetrap than his neighbour, though he build his house in the woods, the world will make a beaten path to his door.

—*Emerson*

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Well Answered

The superior young person had been shown to his room in the hotel.

"So this is the room?" he grumbled, "Rather like a prison, don't you think?"

"Well, it's just a matter of what one is used to, sir," replied the manager.

"Yes, my new maid came to me from a very good family."

"Really? I suppose the girl wanted a change."

"I thought your father looked very distinguished with his grey hairs."

Spendthrift son: "Yes, dear old chap. I gave him those! I gave him those!"

Examinations are formidable even for the best prepared, for the greatest fool may ask more than the wisest man can answer.

—Charles Colton.

Keep good men company and you shall be one of the number.

Hypocrisy is a homage that vice pays to virtue.

He that will not stoop for a pin shall never be worth a pound.

—An English proverb.

He is not poor that hath little, but he that desireth much.

Friendships multiply joys and divides grief.

'Marriage with peace is this world's paradise; with strife, this life's purgatory.

Public money is like holy water, everyone helps himself to it.

Spend not where you may save; spare not where you must spend.

Home is the girl's prison and the woman's workhouse.

—G. B. Shaw.

Everything great in this world has come from neurotics. They alone have founded our religions and composed our masterpieces.

—Marcel Proust.

Taking no Risks

Tommy was being examined in the catechism by the visiting minister.

"What is meant by regeneration?" asked the minister.

"What, it's just being born again," replied the lad, with some maternal prompting.

"And wouldn't you like to be born again?"

No reply to this, even under paternal pressure, until finally in desperation the truth came out:

"I ain't taking any chances of being a girl."

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HIS SHOCK

Pierre Laval, the premier of France during German occupation of that country, decided one evening to mingle with the people and find out what Paris thought of him. He disguised himself cleverly and entered a restaurant. It was well patronised but the people ignored him entirely. Laval, however, managed to engage the proprietor in conversation.

"Tell me," whispered Laval. "What do you honestly think of this fellow Laval?"

The proprietor looked frightened. "I prefer not to discuss politics," he said.

"Oh, come on," urged Laval. "You can trust me. I will never tell a soul."

The proprietor looked about him apprehensively and then whispered in Laval's ear, "For heaven's sake, don't let on to anybody around here, but you know, I myself really don't think that Laval is bad."

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MET HIS MATCH

The worker approached his foreman in his most ingratiating manner.

"Sir," he said, "I request you to give me a day's leave. I am moving into a new house tomorrow and my wife wants me to help move the household effects."

"Sorry," said the foreman. "I was expecting you to ask for leave for to-morrow. Your wife called me up this morning and said that you are a blundering idiot and mess things up and she didn't want you to be near while moving to the new house."

The worker's face fell and just as he was walking out of the room he turned his head and addressed the foreman, "Sir, there are two men in this factory that use the truth very loosely. I ain't married."

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Let me say to you that to do nothing at all is the most difficult thing in the world, the most difficult and the most intellectual.

—Oscar Wilde.